

HAS KEPT UP  
WITH WESTERN  
MICHIGAN'S PACEVALLEY CITY MILLING CO. PRO-  
DIGIOUS GROWTH FROM A  
SMALL MILL IN EARLY '80'S.

From an insignificant flour mill in the early '80's to a pretentious milling plant in 1918 producing 350,000 barrels of high grade flour is the achievement of the Valley City Milling company which links it prominently in the minds of old-timers with the development of Grand Rapids and western Michigan.

In addition to 350,000 barrels of flour the Valley City Milling company also produces several thousands of barrels of corn meal, corn flour and self-raising biscuit and panetka flours.

Three thousand carloads of grain and manufactured products move in and out of their plants annually—an average of 10 cars per working day. Lily White-flour, Golden Granulated corn meal, Yes Ma'am Graham flour, Rowena Pancake flour, Rowena Self-Raising Biscuit flour and Rowena Flour are the products of the Valley City Milling company. All have become household words throughout western Michigan.

The hickie public would not have made these products their own but for one thing—their high standard of quality. The entire line of the Valley City Milling company is sold under the strongest kind of a guarantee. The company has never been known to fail to make good its every promise made to the buying public. This policy in no small measure is responsible for the company's splendid success. It is a policy that lies at the bottom of all great industrial successes. Give the public quality goods and live up to your guarantee and you will win.

Behind this policy and the year-by-year development from a small mill to a mighty plant has been character and a high order of business integrity. The business was established as a co-partnership Feb. 1, 1884 by the late William N. Rowe. Associated with him were Richard M. Lawrence, Moreau S. Crosby, one of Michigan's lieutenant governors and C. G. Swensburg. The names of these men are indelibly linked with the earlier progress of Grand Rapids.

The business developed rapidly under the management of Mr. Rowe. In 1894 a corporation was formed with C. G. Swensburg as president, Jesse Owen, vice president and Mr. Rowe as secretary-treasurer and general manager.

When the business was established Jesse Owen was installed as head miller. He is still with the organization, consulting miller and superintendent. This gives him a record of over 34 years continuous service. He is among the highest rated and best known millers in America. The Valley City Milling company acknowledges much of its success to Mr. Owen's skill as a miller and his conspicuous ability as a production man.

In March, 1906, the responsibilities of the business were suddenly thrust upon the shoulders of William S. Rowe and Fred N. Rowe, sons of its founder, through the untimely death of the elder Rowe.

The younger Rowes had been thoroughly schooled in the business. There was no interruption of its progress. On the contrary, the younger men developed it at even a more rapid rate than in former years—both in magnitude and popular favor. It is still growing not only throughout Michigan, but in New England and the southern states, where Valley City Milling company products have a large distribution.

The present management is composed of Wm. S. Rowe, president and general manager; Fred N. Rowe, secretary; L. E. Smith, vice president; and advertising manager; F. E. Martin, treasurer and credit man; Henry Hagens, traffic manager. All are young men of high repute, established reputation and splendid business ability. The company is held in high regard by the trade and by the general public. A still greater and brighter future is unquestionably in prospect for the Valley City Milling company.

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## SMYRNA

Merry Christmas to all.  
Have you helped to make someone happy?

The houses that are closed for the winter look lonesome.  
It is reported that some of the farmers near here have been doing some plowing.

Hugo Gasper made a trip to Grand Rapids Friday.

Mrs. John Mehney was in Smyrna Saturday and called on her aunt, Mrs. Susan Huff.

Emmet Gould was building fence a few days last week. Chas. Winkworth assisted him.

We hear that Mrs. Abe Moon is ill with tonsillitis.

The people here were quite shocked last week when they heard that Roy Douglas had been obliged to have a leg amputated. Roy is a boy well liked by all who knew him and he has the heartfelt sympathy of his many friends. He is in France yet.

Mrs. Lynn Mason who was recovering from an attack of the flu had a relapse and was much worse for a time.

Mrs. Mary Tebbel visited Mrs. Will Cowles Monday last and they had a sort of knitting bee.

Mrs. Alice Peterson and Mrs. Ella Richmond called on their old friend, Wm. Gardner, Thursday. Mr. Gardner is very feeble.

Mrs. Herbert Mehney is recovering from the flu. The quarantine has been lifted.

Mrs. Mary Gray was in Lowell on business Wednesday.

John Purdy told us we needn't say anything about the board of trade meetings, but we will. However, there is not much to say. If John beats in the first game, Alfred wins the second and Vest the third and so on. Sometimes reversed. Sometimes there is a little excitement, but usually all is quite quiet.

Miss Aldena Harris was a supper guest at the home of Ed. Insley and family Wednesday.

There was a good attendance at the Red Cross meeting Thursday. A fine picnic dinner was served and the ladies did a lot of work, finishing up all they had on hand except a little knitting. The next meeting will be held during the holidays.

Mrs. Marvin Nash and Miss Sadie Himebaugh were in Belding Friday evening.

Mrs. Ed. Insley received a lengthy and very interesting letter from Mrs. J. A. Cook last week. Mr. and Mrs. Cook are still in Florida where they are in homes the climate may agree with Mr. Cook and he may improve in health.

Orin Hanks was a caller at the home of his brother, Geo. Hanks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Will Buell left Wednesday for Ohio where he will assist his brother, Geo. Buell with work this winter.

Miss Della Hinds is visiting her aunt, Mrs. Ella Beedy and cousin, Mrs. Grace Beedy.

Mrs. Ida Shaw was the guest of Mrs. Mary Gray Friday night. Mrs. Shaw left Saturday for Detroit and expects to remain during the winter with her daughter, Myrtle.

Mrs. Bertha Coss left last Thursday on a business trip to Lansing.

Mrs. Ella Beedy is recovering from her recent illness.

Amos Russell was in Belding on business Tuesday and was the dinner guest of Asa Dorr and wife.

Mrs. Archie Woodruff and children are recovering from the flu.

Mrs. Caroline Gais of Belding visited her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Davis and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis Wednesday.

Robert Earle is home from Detroit for Christmas.

George Aubill is home from Oklahoma for the holidays.

Mrs. George Northway of Detroit who broke her left arm at the elbow a few weeks ago, does not regain the use of it as soon as it was hoped she would. Her daughter, Mrs. John Regan is caring for her.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Brown and son of Belding were visitors at the home of Mrs. Orinda Dumon Sunday.

Mrs. Elizabeth Davis called on Mrs. Sylvester Osborn Wednesday.

Mrs. Geo. Tebbel visited her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fred McNitt in Belding Thursday.

Mrs. Grace Beedy and daughter, Martha were Belding visitors Wednesday.

Miss Cora Hoppough of Olivet and Miss Edna Van Harlingen of Ripon, Wis. are holiday guests at the home of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hoppough.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Brink visited George Hanks and wife Wednesday.

Mrs. Ella Beedy called on Mrs. Eleanor Dicken Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster Dorr of Haymarsh and Asa Dorr and wife of Belding visited Mr. and Mrs. Amos Russell Wednesday.

Mrs. A. L. Hull is recovering from her cold.

Sunday callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Winkworth were Mrs. Ella Beedy, Mrs. Chas. Condon, Mrs. Hugo Gasper and Miss Gayla Penton. Elgin Condon and wife and Mrs. Emma Lee were Belding visitors Saturday.

Mrs. Sylvester Osborn called on Mrs. Orinda Dumon and Mrs. Fred Dumon Sunday.

Geo. Hanks was down in Vergennes Thursday visiting with his old company comrade in the war, Hosmer Andrews.

Mrs. Chas. Condon and baby, Carol, were guests of her mother, Mrs. Ella Beedy Wednesday.

Mrs. Alvah Dadds and son, Gerald, who were in Belding visiting with G. O. Bignell and family, returned to Smyrna Friday and were guests of her grandmother, Mrs. Eleanor Dicken and father, Mike Dicken, until Saturday and then visited with Will Dicken and wife until Monday when she and little Gerald left for their future home in Detroit.

Noble Peterson, wife and daughter, Ruth, and Mrs. J. E. Insley were in Belding Saturday.

Mrs. Geo. Davis and daughter, Miss Lizzie called on Alfred Davis and wife and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis Wednesday.

Mrs. Fred Osborn called on Mrs. Sylvester Osborn Friday.

Robert Earle was pleasantly surprised Christmas in receiving a splendid pair of double boots with Mrs. John Clark, one of his former employers on rural route No. 1, Smyrna.

Robert Beebe was home from Belding Saturday and Sunday.

Ed. Insley, Mrs. A. Barry and Mrs. Marvin Nash were in Belding Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Gould were visitors at the home of John Purdy and wife Friday evening.

Mrs. C. W. Joslin called on Mrs. Eleanor Dicken Friday.

Mrs. Alvah Dadds and little son, and Mrs. Maggie Beedy called on Mrs. Robert Earle Sunday evening.

Carroll Ring of Belding and his friend, Royal Davis, called on Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Hanks Thursday evening.

Miss Sadie Himebaugh visited relatives in Alma Saturday night and Sunday.

Howard Insley is home from Grand Rapids for Christmas.

Lloyd Olds is home again from the camps and there is great rejoicing at the Olds home.

Our school closed Friday for the holiday vacation and Miss Ruth Whitmore went to her home near Palo Saturday. The pupils of her school had a Christmas tree and exercises at the school Friday and a number of visitors were in attendance. The program was as follows:

Welcome song—By 7th grade.  
Song, Christmas Day is Here—By school.

A Christmas Wish—Hilda Andres.  
December Greeting—Dorothy Reeves.

If Santa Claus Was Pa—Dayton Reeves.  
Christmas Eve in Wildwood Hollow—Rose Zuerk.

Poor Santa Claus—Ella May Joslin.  
Locks Like Pa—Donald Gasper.

Overheard at Christmas—Mary Gardner.  
Song, Christmas Carol—School.

Jolly Santa Claus (motion song)—Eighth grade girls.  
Family Troubles—Martha Beedy.

A Voice for Santa—Eddie Talbot.  
Duet, The Little Soldier and the Red Cross Maid—Bernice Olds and Arlo Tebbel.

The Fairies Strike, a play.  
Santa's Fairy Helpers—Fuzzy, Grace Reeves; Pecky, Rose Zuerk; Dot, Hilda Andres; Dimple, Mary Gardner.

Santa—Ernie Andres.  
Santa—Marion Woodruff.  
Other Brownies—Laurence Webster and Eddie Talbot.

Bobbie Dreamer—Willie Talbot.  
Song, Christmas Secrets—By eight boys.

The Look-out Man—Ella May Joslin.  
Save a Little Christmas Cheer—Bernice Olds.

Santa's Mistake—Ella May Joslin and Dayton Reeves.  
Merry Christmas Time (pantomime)—By nine girls.

Song, How We Caught Santa—By the school.  
Song, Merry, Merry Christmas.

Old Santa Claus Sat All Alone in His Den—Willie Talbot.  
Santa Claus—Laurence Webster.

Ring Out, Wild Bells—Mary Talbot.  
Silent Night (pantomime)—Nine girls.

Play, The Spirit of Christmas.  
Mr. John Chalmers, an elderly business man—Arlo Tebbel.

Emily, Mr. Chalmers's housekeeper—Bernice Olds.  
Father Christmas—John Talbot.

Spirit of Christmas—Marion Woodruff.  
Mrs. James Brown—Mary Talbot.

Mr. James Brown—Laurence Gardner.  
Chorus of children.

Ragged Girl—Catherine Talbot.  
Song, Glad Bells of Christmas Are Ringing—By the school.

Song, Beautiful Bells—By the school.

POTASH ON POTATOES

Years ago when the country was still new, and long before the bugs, and the beetles, and the blights, and the scabs and the scurfs, and the wet rots and the dry rots came in increasing numbers to destroy the crop, potatoes were fertilized with potash.

It was done unconsciously. As the settlers cleared the land, the great logs and the brush were burned, leaving on the soil a fair dressing of potash contained in wood ashes. Tradition says that the best potatoes were grown on new land treated in this way, and that never after were potatoes grown of as good quality and as good eating as was this first crop.

We cannot use ashes now for practically all of our soils are old and infected with scab fungus. The lime in wood ashes increases the trouble from scab, but potatoes need potash just as much as they ever did. It adds to the quality just the same as it did two and three generations ago when some of our farms were just being cleared.

A single pound of potash in potato fertilizer makes about a bushel of potatoes. At the Maine state agricultural experiment station 3 per cent of potash in the fertilizer mixture for a total application of 45 pounds of potash per acre increased the yield by 43 bushels. At the New Jersey experiment station the same quantity of potash increased the acre yield by about 45 bushels. On the eastern shore of Virginia 3 per cent potash in the fertilizer made a 35-bushel increase in the crop, while 5 per cent added nearly 50 bushels to the total crop.

The potato crops for the past three years have been grown without applied potash. There has also been increasing evidence that the residues left in the soil by past fertilization have been pretty thoroughly drawn upon, and for this reason it is doubly fortunate that American inventiveness and ingenuity has developed sources of American potash, so that the potato crop may not lack this important plant food.

Frank Collier is spending the holidays at the old home near Mt. Pleasant.

You'll miss a treat if you don't read "The Light in the Clearing."

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A certificate of deposit bearing

5%

interest is the best possible form of investment. It's always ready money. You don't have to hunt a buyer.

We issue them; Savings Books too. Don't sell your Liberty Bonds but if you wish to, we'll buy them; pay you the cash.

## SANDELL'S BANK

In the Business in Belding More Than 22 Years.

LOCAL SOLDIER  
TELLS OF TRAVELS  
SINCE HE ENLISTED(Continued from Page One)  
say so will close with love, from your son,Pvt. Rollin Donovan,  
340th Field Hospital, A. E. F., France.

Another letter from Harry Fuller to his mother, Mrs. Frank Fuller, is as follows:

November 14, 1918.

Dear Mother:

I've dropped back into the old rut again, a little over a week since I wrote you last and that is the last one I have written, although I have several that I should get busy and write.

For some reason though, I have not had a letter from you for over a week and you may be sure I am somewhat anxious to hear how you are and if the flu has left and you are all all right. I have wondered if you were luck to escape it yourself.

I have not heard from Chester yet, nor from Carrie for a long time. It hardly seems possible the war is over and the next great question and what all will look forward to is, when will we get home, but the important part is over, so it's not so bad; we know it won't be so very long before there will be some of the fellows on the way. We are repairing trucks same as ever, but the gun work over with.

I had a card from Maud Peterson today. She was feeling some better, am sending you some clippings that she sent me a short time ago, some of her own writing; also a French postcard I received from Art, not long ago and another card I picked up in the billets which we occupied in a certain part of France this last summer; it's from some Frenchman to his wife and mother. I imagine, they the Germans. Also a few "eleven" for that record you have, of when the fighting stopped, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year, 1918, and 11 months after I enlisted.

Will write again in a few days when perhaps I may be in more of a mood to write. Love to all at home.

Ord. Det. Rep'hosp. 44th Arty., C. A. C. A. P. O. 719, A. E. F., France.

Another letter is from Bertie Rich, who was wounded early in the battles which he took part in but who evidently got back into action again. His letter is as follows:

France, Nov. 12, 1918.

Dear Brother:

I will drop you a few lines. I am well and feeling fine. I suppose you have heard the good news, the long looked for hour came at last. We were under shell fire almost to the last minute. Well, I hope we get back to the U. S. by the time we come out home visiting. Just got a letter from Leon the other day with the kids' picture. L. D. and Tut are growing like weeds. The place sure looked natural. Well tell the folks I said hello.

Pvt. Burle Rich,  
63d Brig. Hdq., A. E. F., France.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Trimble have received the following letters, the first one from their son, George, in France and the second from their son, John, in the navy:

Nov. 27, 1918.

Dear Father and Mother:

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and wish I could be with you but as I can't I will think of you.

We are in Lorraine now, the land that Germany took away from France about 50 years ago. I am not sure but I think we will go still farther east as this is the fourth division and one of the divisions of the new third army to occupy reconquered territory.

The Germans sure did shell the towns in France and destroy property as you will notice by the card I am sending you.

I have seen many towns that look about the same and a fellow has to stop and wonder what was gained in this war by the destruction of fine old homes and driving people out.

Old Fritz has got to pay dear for all he has done but even that cannot replace what has been taken or destroyed.

We are billeted in a school house in a church yard and it is the best place we have been in for quite awhile. The school was built in 1880 and is a fine old building.

This part of France seems to be the cream of the territory taken by Germany as there is coal and iron ore mines that are being worked and from the size of the steel mill we passed I should judge that the iron ore mines are rich.

When a fellow is on a hike like we have been for four days he gets a chance to see things as they really are and even though we have sore feet and all tired out we are seeing things that people in the States will pay big prices to see and it is something we will never forget.

Maybe you think it don't cost anything to live over here, but oh, boy, I don't think a millionaire would last long. One of the boys sent me to town to buy some hamburger for him and gave me 20 francs, about \$4.00 U. S. money. I got five pounds and came back broke, a loaf of barley bread the same size as a large rye loaf costs 75c, one candle costs 40c, eggs are worth \$1.60 per doz and scarce and everything else in the line of food stuffs are the same. I went in a store to buy some jelly and a lady gave me a ticket and motioned for me to give it to another lady. There I paid for it and a girl farther down the line weighed out the jelly and I got out.

I don't think we are to stay here long, and perhaps the next letter you receive will be from Germany proper. I didn't miss seeing front line work by very much; we were on the road hiking to join the fourth division the day the firing stopped so you see how close I came to it.

Forest Beemer is with this division but not in the same company I'm in and I have only seen him once since Nov. 5.

I had the good luck to meet Chas. King on the road; it was when we were passing through (deleted); he is an ambulance driver and was waiting there for orders. I was sure glad to see him and I guess he was glad to see both Forest and myself. He walked quite a ways with us and we had a talk about what we had done since being over here.

I started this letter as soon as I came in from drill, but had to stop and go to "chow". We had beans and beef, bread and coffee and I sure was hungry as they had canned roast beef for breakfast and I can't eat that anymore so had bread and coffee.

We are drilling five hours a day: from 8 A. M. to 1 P. M. and I use the rest of the day for cleaning my rifle and clothes.

There is absolutely nothing in town to see and a fellow has to have lots of money if he is going to buy anything, so I do no running around.